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**JOURNAL**



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**LIBERTY SEATED COIN SERIES  
VOLUME THREE ISSUE #8**

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# GOBRECHT JOURNAL

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|                                                                                                     |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| LIBERTY SEATED DOLLARS-SCARCITY/AVAILABILITY<br>by Ron Severa.....                                  | 3  |
| NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY-TREASURER.....                                                             | 6  |
| SOME VARIETIES OF SAN FRANCISCO MINT MARKS ON LIBERTY<br>SEATED HALVES by David A. Brase, Ph.D..... | 8  |
| ADVICE ON COLLECTING VARIETIES<br>by Mel Hatfield.....                                              | 13 |
| PROOF LIBERTY SEATED "NO MOTTO" QUARTERS AND HALVES<br>by Maurice Rosen.....                        | 15 |
| CENTENNIAL QUARTERS<br>by John McCloskey.....                                                       | 17 |
| KAM'S KORNER<br>by Kamal M. Ahwash.....                                                             | 21 |
| THE 1849/184-0 LIBERTY SEATED DIME<br>by Larry W. Ward.....                                         | 26 |
| REGIONAL MEETINGS OF LSCC.....                                                                      | 28 |
| ON THE COVER.....                                                                                   | 29 |
| LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.....                                                                          | 30 |
| FROM THE PRESIDENT.....                                                                             | 32 |

## **Liberty Seated Dollars - Scarcity/ Availability**

by  
**Ron Severa**

This article is my humble attempt at rating Liberty Seated Dollars (in XF grade) according to their **appearance** for sale over the past two years. References used were: **Coin World**, **Numismatic News**, many fixed-priced dealers' lists plus auction catalogs from Stack's, Rarcoa, Bowers and Ruddy, Kreisberg, Kagins, Steve Ivy, NERCG, Pine Tree, Paramount and Superior. Obviously there is much I didn't see, but I felt it was an honest attempt, and one which somebody should make. It should be noted that Bruce Lorch, of Bowers and Ruddy, helped me a great deal by checking over the listing and making some notations and corrections. He was most helpful, and I am indebted to him for sparing me his time and knowledge.

I've long considered Dollars to be the scarcest series of Liberty Seated coins - and the most ignored by collectors. The lack of any reference material and information probably is the main cause, with the scarcity of the coins adding to it. I hope this small attempt at an observation will start at least one small candle burning for collecting what I consider to be Gobrecht's finest coin - the only one he put his name to!

The listing gives rank by frequency of appearance, date, comments and actual price range of coins listed for sale in XF condition.

1. **1873-S. All thought to have been melted. Rumors of one in existence; if true, the rarest U.S. Dollar.**
2. **1866 N/M. Two known. Dupont specimen stolen and still unaccounted for. Other piece recently offered at fixed price of \$125,000 (NERCG).**
3. **1870-S. Six or seven in existence (all grades). One specimen offered for sale at ANA show in 1976. (XF grade, P.O.R.)**
4. **1873-CC. Rarely offered for sale/auction. This is the rarest available L.S. Dollar. Usually Auctioned.**
5. **1871-CC. Rarely offered in fixed price lists. Very rare coin which usually betters its Trends price whenever offered at auction. Usually Auctioned.**
6. **1851. Usually comes softly struck. Very rarely offered anywhere. Usually Auctioned.**
7. **1852. Usually comes softly struck. Very rarely offered anywhere. Usually Auctioned.**
8. **1872-CC. Very scarce coin which appears about 5 times for every 1871-CC or 1873-CC; as such, appears overpriced in comparison. \$1200-1600**
9. **1862. Very rarely offered in any grade. No question the rarest Civil War era Dollar. \$350-400. (Proofs of this date are available.)**

I am a strong buyer of SCARCE, choice and gem seated coinage. For example, I would pay \$1000 for a gem 1849 or 1872-S half. Write me if you feel you have some scarce coins in choice condition.

My coins are graded properly, as my return rate (0%) will attest. I price my coins fairly by their rarity and true market value. All I can say is that I pay postage both ways if there is any problem with my coins.

## DIMES

1853-0 Fine + + .....\$25  
 1858-0 VF \$40, VF-EF.....\$55  
 1869 Fine-rim cut.....\$20

## QUARTERS

1841-0 VF.....\$30  
 1843-0 Sharp AU but  
     cleaned so  
     only EF-AU.....\$135  
 1844 AU-50 + and very  
     lustrous..... \$125  
 1844-0 Strictly AU-50, some  
     luster and uncleaned  
     .....\$195  
 1848 AU-50 and extremely  
     lustrous. Stack's  
     Emerick coin (EF + )  
     brought \$220 in Nov.  
     This piece a half  
     grade finer.....\$195  
 1850 F-VF cleaned.....\$20  
 1851 Fine-scratch, but still  
     VG.....\$20  
     AU-50 + and  
     nice.....\$250  
 1851-0 VF-EF but an X in  
     field. Still fine or  
     better.....\$95  
 1854-0 BU-Full luster and a  
     nice strike but  
     surfaces are lightly  
     bin marked.....\$750  
 1856-0 EF-AU beautiful.....\$60  
 1857-0 EF-AU.....\$60  
 1858-0 EF + + \$95,  
     AU-50.....\$155

## QUARTERS

1860-0 EF (2) each.....\$50  
 1861 AU-55 + Choice with  
     superb orig. toning-  
     the reverse is Ch. BU  
     Blazing cartwheel  
     but some obverse  
     friction .....\$375  
 1862-S VF-EF some  
     luster .....\$95  
 1866-S VF + , try and find  
     one cheaper .....\$155  
 1867-S The most overlooked  
     S mint. Fine \$60,  
     F-VF \$85 (2),  
     VF \$105 (3), Full  
     EF .....\$175

Six of these have been advertised by their previous owners in Coin World. They are not repeats and not another hoard.

1870 EF some tiny  
     marks.....\$65  
 1871 VF-EF.....\$35  
 1875-CC EF + + lite obverse  
     scratch, still very  
     close to AU.....\$225  
 1886 BU P-L, tiny planchet  
     flaw in arm and a  
     small reverse spot,  
     beautiful toning  
     and impressive  
     .....\$525

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10. 1855. Very scarce and undervalued. Appears infrequently, and never on sale. Rarest of the scarce 1853-57 dates. \$350-475
11. 1863. Ten proofs offered for every business strike. Very scarce. \$200-350
12. 1861. Worst struck (usually soft head/stars) of all Civil War year Dollars. Rare fully struck. \$200-250. Available in proof.
13. 1865. Very scarce. Usually offered in proof. Undervalued. \$175-250
14. 1864. Scarce, as are all Civil War year Dollars. \$200-300. Again, usually offered in proof.
15. 1850-0. A rare coin which is presently enjoying much attention at auction. Rare in high (XF/better) grade, but overpriced now. \$450-1440.
16. 1859-S. Very difficult coin in honest XF/better grade. Not often seen and definitely scarcer than the lower mintage 1872-S. \$325-500.
17. 1859. Very scarce and undervalued; probably because of its high mintage figure, and confusion with the common 1859-0. \$125-150
18. 1860. Very scarce and undervalued; probably because of its high mintage figure, and confusion with the common 1860-0. \$125-150
19. 1854. Few pieces offered have been mostly high grade. Top of the date usually comes weak. \$300-550
20. 1866 W/M. This coin surely must have been saved somewhat as the first L.S. Dollar W/motto. Where are they? \$200-275. Proofs available.
21. 1867. Again, many more proofs offered than business strikes. All L.S. Dollars, 1861-1869 conspicuously absent from dealers' lists. \$175-225.
22. 1868. Again, many more proofs offered than business strikes. All L.S. Dollars, 1861-1869 conspicuously absent from dealers' lists. \$150-225.
23. 1846-0. Not offered often. A difficult coin to locate fully struck up. \$225-325.
24. 1848. More common than mintage and publicity would suggest, but popular. \$225-355.
25. 1869. Again, many more proofs offered than business strikes. All L.S. Dollars, 1861-1869 conspicuously absent from dealers' lists. \$150-225.
26. 1872-S. Relatively common in lower grades; difficult in XF/better. \$375-450.
27. 1850. Relatively common coin considering tiny mintage. Usually comes nice with proof-like surfaces. \$325-500
28. 1858. Proof only year, with unknown number of restrikes in existence. Surprisingly, this date is usually available somewhere. \$1800-2500
29. 1870-CC. Usually available, even at lower prices. The common CC dollar. \$250-375
30. 1856. The best struck of the 1853-57 year dollars. Scarce. \$200-300.

31. 1844. Not as difficult as mintage would suggest. A few quad-stripes variety have appeared at small premiums over regular date. \$175-250.
32. 1857. Scarce. A rare date with full head and stars. \$200-300
33. 1845. Not as difficult as mintage would indicate. \$150-200
34. 1870. Not as common as mintage would indicate. \$150-200
35. 1873. Not a common date. Very undervalued. \$125-150
36. 1849. Usually available. A little overpriced at present, due to promoting. \$160-225
37. 1853. A date which is usually available in high grade. Hard to find with stars fully struck. "Chin-whiskers" variety more common than without. \$180-225
38. 1846. First of the really common date L.S. Dollars. \$125-175
39. 1847. Available in most listings. \$125-150
40. 1840. Available in most listings. Overpriced. \$175-250
41. 1843. Available in most listings. Fairly priced. \$125-150.
42. 1859-0. Available in most listings. One bag released by Gov't. \$125-150:
43. 1860-0. Available in most listings. One bag released by Gov't. \$125-150.
44. 1841. Available in most listings. Fairly priced. \$125-150
45. 1872. Available in most listings. \$125-150
46. 1871. Available in most listings. Two bags released by Gov't. \$125-150.
47. 1842. Most offered L.S. Dollar, yet fairly priced. \$125-150

### **Notes From the Secretary-Treasurer**

It has been expressed by some members that there are certain items they'd like to propose as amendments to the constitution or bylaws of L.S.C.C. Amendments can be made at the annual meeting for 1977 at the Atlanta convention of the A.N.A.

Thus, I am asking that any member desiring to make such proposals do so now, in writing. For accuracy I ask that such proposals be neatly typed or printed, including, in detail, exact wording of the proposed change or addition, and that they be sent to me at your earliest convenience.

Keep in mind: a constitution and bylaws of an organization should be amended only when absolutely needed. Change - simply for the sake of change - is no accomplishment to anyone.

**Melvin G. Hatfield**  
**Secretary-Treasurer**

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**Some Varieties of San Francisco Mint Marks on Liberty Seated Halves**  
by  
**David A. Brase, Ph.D.**

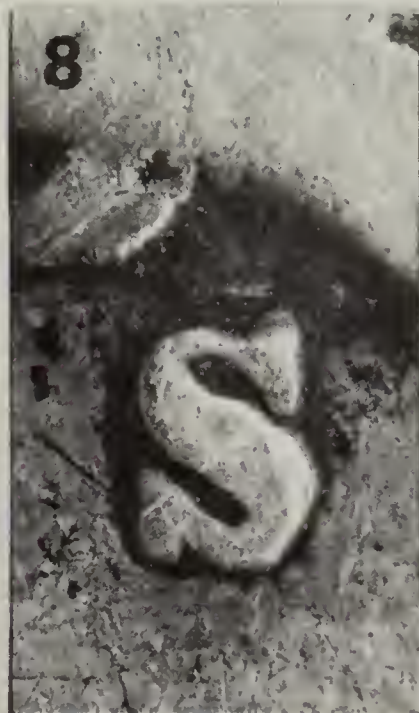
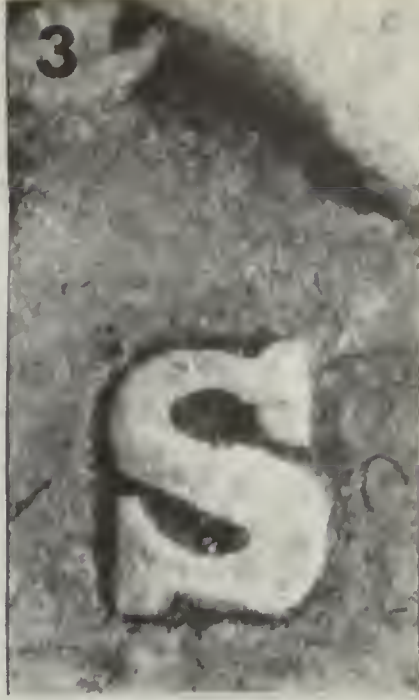
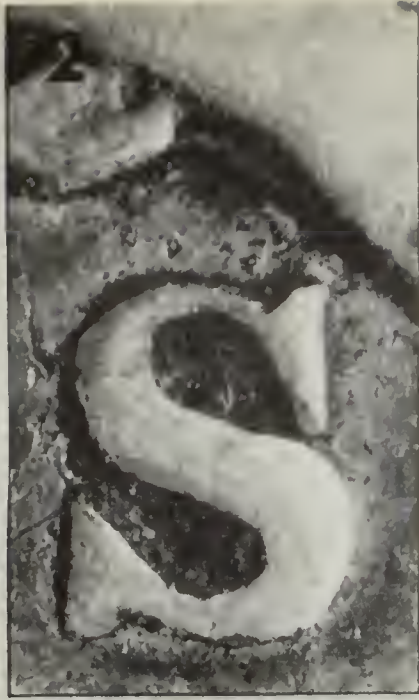
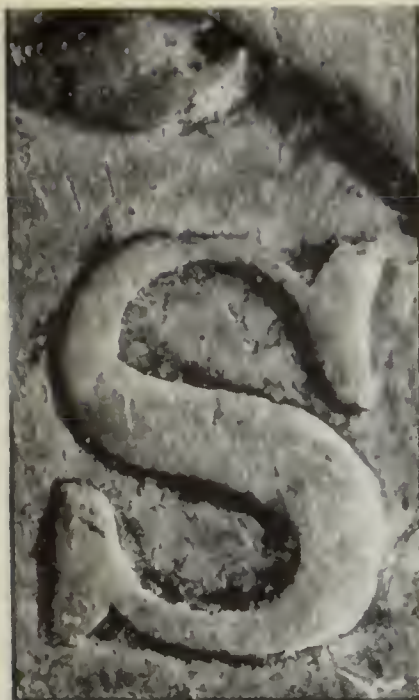
In a recent issue of the **Gobrecht Journal**, John McCloskey presented an excellent article on the small, medium, and large mint mark varieties of the 1862-S half dollar. Beistle, in his book entitled **A Register of Half Dollar Die Varieties and Sub-Varieties** frequently uses the adjectives "small," "medium," and "large" to denote various sizes of mint marks on different half dollar varieties. Indeed, Beistle indicates that all three sizes of mint marks may be found on 1858-S, 1862-S, and 1864-S half dollars. Also, 1876-S, some 1877-S, and all 1878-S half dollars have what Beistle calls a very small mint mark.

Although these adjectives may be adequate for general descriptive purposes, I soon became confused when I tried to identify the variety of several of the halves in my collection using Beistle's book. Apparently, Beistle was confused at times, too, because there is at least one case where he called exactly the same-sized mint mark small or medium, depending upon the year. I found this out by photographing several of my coins. While I was working in San Francisco, I had the opportunity to use a Leitz microscope equipped with an automatic camera. This made photography of mint marks a relatively easy task.

In the nine pictures included in this article, I have attempted to show not only as many different mint mark sizes and styles as I could find in my collection, but also to demonstrate the remarkably different positions where mint marks were put on the coins in some years. The photographs show mint mark varieties from the following dates: (1) 1855-S, (2) 1857-S, (3) 1866-S without motto, (4) 1872-S, (5) 1874-S with arrows, (6) 1866-S with motto, (7) 1873-S with arrows (round dot to the left of S is an oil droplet artifact), (8) 1875-S, and (9) 1876-S.

When looking at photos 1, 2, and 3, one can easily say they represent large, medium, and small mint marks, respectively. But what about photos 4 and 5? These mint marks are smaller than medium, but larger than small. The year 1872 has both of the varieties shown in photos 4 and 5. Beistle calls #4 small and #5 medium. Number 4 is taller, but #5 is wider. Confusing, isn't it? Here is another example. Photo #2 (1857-S) is described by Beistle as a medium-sized mint mark. I have an 1859-S with the same-sized mint mark (Beistle 2B), but Beistle calls this one a small mint mark. I am also somewhat confused as to what Beistle means by a very small mint mark. At first I thought it was the one shown in photo #9 (1876-S). All three of the die varieties listed by Beistle for 1876-S are described as having a very small mint mark. Yet most of the 1876-S halves I have seen have a mint mark larger than #9. The 1878-S mint mark is also larger than #9.

In addition to varying in size, the San Francisco mint marks also varied in position. The original position in 1855 (photo #1) was directly below the apex formed between the tip of an arrow feather on the left and the olive branch going down toward the right. This is what Beistle refers to as the "crotch." This is shown in photos 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8, and it is probably the most commonly used area for the mint mark. Another relatively common position is below the feather tip as shown in photos 6 and 9. To my know-



ledge, however, the position shown in photo #4 only occurred in 1872, 1874, and 1875. The mint mark is low and to the right of the "crotch," being directly above the space between the F and D of "HALF DOL." The 1874 and 1875 varieties are not listed in Beistle's book. The 1872 and 1875 mint marks are almost identical in appearance, but the 1875 mint mark leans more toward the left. Unfortunately, I do not have an example of the 1874-S with the mint mark in this position, but the mint mark is noticeably different from the 1872-S and 1875-S. It has what I would call a "puffy" appearance and is somewhat scarcer than the variety shown in photo #5. While searching for one at the recent ANA Convention in New York City, I discovered a third die variety of the 1874-S, which has the same size of mint mark and in nearly the same position as the 1873-S with arrows mint mark shown in photo #7. This mint mark is in an unusual position up between the feather tip and eagle talon. Photographs of the "puffy S" variety can be found in an auction catalog of the Austin Collection (Lot #738) and again on page 107 of Rare Coin Review No. 21 by the Bowers and Ruddy Galleries, Inc. Since its position occurred in 1872, 1874, and 1875, one wonders whether the position of the mint mark on the unknown 1873-S without arrows might also have been above the F and D of "HALF DOL."

In conclusion, I would like to say that I think Beistle did a commendable job in putting together his book on half dollar varieties, considering that he was not likely able to photograph most of the coins he examined. I also think, however, that verbal descriptions alone can at times be confusing or inadequate, and I believe the time is right for a new photographic guide on liberty seated half dollars to be produced, especially since my limited experience indicates that there are several die varieties not listed in Biestle's book. I, myself, do not have the experience, time, or resources for such an effort, but hope someone reading this article can fulfill the need for a new reference book on this subject. I am sure many of the LSCC members would be willing to contribute information regarding die varieties and sub-varieties in their own collections, which escaped Beistle's careful eyes.



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### HALF DIMES

|                             |      |
|-----------------------------|------|
| 1844/184 VF.....            | \$30 |
| 1852-0 Good + .....         | \$20 |
| 1858-0 VF/XF.....           | \$25 |
| 1858/Inv. 1858 Good + ..... | \$30 |

### DIMES

|                                                     |       |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1842-0 Med. "O" VF-XF.....                          | \$40  |
| 1847 Var. I VF Just.....                            | \$60  |
| 1848 XF.....                                        | \$40  |
| 1856/56-0 Lt. Scr. Cleaned<br>Recut Up Nice XF..... | \$170 |
| 1857-0 Med. "O" Sm. Obv. Scr.<br>Fine.....          | \$15  |
| 1869 VF Just.....                                   | \$50  |
| 1875-CC Under Wreath Fine...                        | \$20  |
| 1875-CC I/W Sl. Bend XF.....                        | \$30  |
| 1890-S F-VF.....                                    | \$25  |

### QUARTERS

|                                                                 |      |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1843-0 VF Just.....                                             | \$40 |
| 1849 Fine Just.....                                             | \$15 |
| 1871 Coin grades Fine+ but<br>"BER" missing, some<br>marks..... | \$17 |
| 1875-CC CLND, Sm. Marks<br>Fine.....                            | \$65 |

### HALVES

|                                                        |      |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 1851-0 VG Rim Bumps.....                               | \$20 |
| 1860 VF+ Cleaned.....                                  | \$90 |
| 1860 AVG.....                                          | \$22 |
| 1864 AVG Sm. nick.....                                 | \$24 |
| 1866 VG Sm. scratch.....                               | \$20 |
| 1868 AVG/Fine Sm. Scr.....                             | \$40 |
| 1870 Coin grades Fine but "IBER"<br>missing, Nice..... | \$15 |

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## ADVICE ON COLLECTING VARIETIES

by  
Mel Hatfield

Why collect varieties? For the same reason some people climb mountains; because they're there! After an individual collector has completed his set of Seated half dimes, dimes, quarters, halves, or whatever his interest may be, he must decide: What next?

In many instances, what comes next is upgrading weak spots as well as adding oddities and varieties to the basic date/mint set. As most of us who have collected Seated Liberty coins for a period of time know, varieties abound of which little or nothing has been published.

Since most albums, available to the collector, accommodate only the major, better known varieties, the collector must be content with storing his varieties elsewhere than in the main album. This may be accomplished by storage in a box made to hold 2 X 2's or in a plain unmarked album.

Items to note for variety study are: size and location of date on obverse as well as recutting of stars, die breaks, etc. On the reverse look for size and location of mint marks, differences in lettering, design, etc. A good rule of thumb is to go over the entire coin with a 10X glass on several different occasions. Many times you'll pass over an obvious variety several times before becoming aware of it. Compare, compare, compare!! Look for the unexpected!

When you acquire a new variety, catalog it on 3 X 5 cards noting its complete description, including all unique characteristics in detail. By doing this you'll keep the possibility of duplication to a minimum, and in the process have a useful personalized catalog of your own collection.

How much do I pay for a variety? A very good question!! I might be sarcastic and say, pay whatever it's worth to you. This isn't very much help to you in the way of advice, however. My personal feelings on varieties are as follows:

- 1) Varieties, even when rare, do not command the same proportionate prices as an equal rarity by date/mint, since there are considerably fewer collectors by variety. Values of rare varieties increase as more collectors attempt to collect them and thereby increase demand.
- 2) Adjustment should be made on prices of varieties based on how major the variety is; for example: All else being equal, a major variance in the size of mint mark would command more than, say, a minor die break.
- 3) A final, but certainly major consideration, is: how rare is this variety? The best way to find out is by correspondence with others of your same interest in the club. A word of warning - place little faith in a dealer extolling the desirability of a newly discovered variety and asking a ridiculously high price. Chances are you could pick up the coin in time on your own or at a rather modest premium. Remember, patience is a virtue, especially in numismatics. I've seen cases where a dealer asking a high price for a Seated dime variety wouldn't pay one-fifth his advertised price for another piece.

Varieties can be fun to collect. A person may continue to add pieces, which make his set more interesting, over a period of years. Oh, the joy of finding a new variety and sharing its discovery with those of like interest. This is the true science of numismatics. Good luck, and happy hunting!!



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\*This applies to the grade itself and not to the degrees within that particular grade (i.e. AU(50) vs. Ch. AU(55)). This allows for legitimate differences in opinion. Steve Ivy Rare Coin Co. retains the option of refunding your money or replacing with a suitable coin.

**Proof Liberty Seated "No Motto"**  
**Quarters and Halves**  
**by**  
**Maurice Rosen**

PROOF "NO MOTTO" LIBERTY SEATED QUARTERS AND HALVES ARE VASTLY UNDERVALUED. Replacing the Bust design, Liberty Seated coinage was first issued via the 1837 half-dimes and dimes. Quarters followed in 1838, halves in 1839, and dollars in 1840. Embracing a coining period exceeding five decades, the quarters and halves were each issued in six various types: "no drapery," "no motto," "arrows & rays," "arrows only," "with motto," and "arrows." Of the widest scope are the "no motto" (n/m), pre-1866, and the "with motto" (w/m), 1866-91, types. We will analyze in depth the merits of the proof n/m vis-a-vis the w/m type.

Our findings suggest that only some **3,345** n/m proofs were minted in total for each of the quarters and halves. Compare this to the w/m total of **20,923**! The current price structure of these two issues hardly reflects this relative rarity, nor the actual scarcity of truly Choice and Gem n/m proofs.

N/M proofs are over six (6) times rarer than the w/m proofs based upon original mintages. However, their prices, as stated by the Greysheet, reflect only a **42% premium** for the quarters, a mere **15% premium** for the halves!

"The Law of Type" states that: **the broader the classification of rarity, the greater the value of that rarity.** Thus, though the proof n/m 25¢ and 50¢ pieces are several times rarer than the w/m proofs, their price will be less than suggested by simple mathematical ratios. For, collectors desiring a single Liberty Seated proof will likely select a w/m specimen - it being more common and less costly.

**SURVIVAL OF "NO MOTTO" PROOFS:** That many sold proofs were destroyed is a fact. Unknown numbers were spent, lost, melted, damaged, or poorly preserved. Generally, the halves were the greater victims; due to their higher face value, they were more likely to be spent during times of duress; also, their heftier weight made them more conducive to mis-handling and damage.

We are comfortable using a **40-70%** survival rate (based on the original net mintage) for Liberty Seated and Barber proof coinage in **ascending percentages** from 1837 to 1915. Thus, far fewer 1860 proof halves exist today as a percentage of original mintage than do 1890 proof halves. The ravages of time, collector care, and possibly more frequent handling favor more recently issued proofs.

Further, the **relative condition** of the survivors is important. Most pre-1866 proofs are anything but choice! This is especially true for those dates before 1860. They are typically plagued by: hairlines, scratches, nicks, irregular toning, spots, stains, weak striking, and lint marks. Moreover, many pieces have been cleaned by dipping, by abrasive rubbing, or have been artificially retoned. We would probably err only on the conservative side by stating that **less than 20% of the surviving proofs are truly Choice or Gem**, virtually free of detriments!

That proof "no motto" quarters and halves are scarce has been amply proved: only an estimated 3,345 were minted in total. Yet, their scarcity goes further, for, assuming 50% survive, only 1,763 exist today. Moreover, because most are imperfect, perhaps NOT EVEN 300 SURVIVE IN CHOICE OR GEM CONDITION!

While we look upon nice proof w/m pieces with favor, a comparison of both broad types is striking: 20,923 vs. 3,345 mintage, or 6.3 to 1!

The current wholesale quote of \$675 hardly reflects the relative rarity of nice n/m proofs.

**Editor's Note:**

The above article is a condensation of an article that appeared in the December, 1976 issue of "The Rosen Numismatic Advisory" which was published by Numismatic Counseling Co., P.O. Box 461, Forest Hills, New York 11375. This monthly publication has a subscription rate of \$50 per year or \$5 per month. As a special offer to LSCC members, Mr. Rosen is offering a 20% discount on the established subscription rates.

**We need 1886-S dimes, 1849-0 and 1860-S quarters and all 1853 No Arrows material. ANY GRADE.**

**SEATED COINS FOR SALE**

**HALF DIMES**

|                     |      |
|---------------------|------|
| 1837 NS AG.....     | 15   |
| 1837 NS G.....      | 24   |
| 1849-0 Good.....    | \$22 |
| 1853 N/A XF-45..... | \$85 |

**DIMES**

|                   |      |
|-------------------|------|
| 1837 NS AG.....   | \$15 |
| 1837 NS Good..... | \$22 |
| 1838-0 NS AG..... | \$16 |
| 1849-0 VG-8.....  | \$10 |
| 1862-S VG-10..... | \$16 |
| 1867-S G-4.....   | \$7  |
| 1874 F-12.....    | \$15 |
| 1884-S VG.....    | \$8  |
| 1889-S VF.....    | \$30 |

**QUARTERS**

|                       |       |
|-----------------------|-------|
| 1850-0 G-4.....       | \$20  |
| 1850-0 VG-10.....     | \$30  |
| 1853-0 G-4.....       | \$8   |
| 1859-S VG-10.....     | \$60  |
| 1860-S Filler.....    | \$35  |
| 1860-S VG-10.....     | \$110 |
| 1861-S VF (PLAT)....  | \$40  |
| 1873-S W/A VF-35..... | \$65  |
| 1891-0 VG.....        | \$75  |

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**John McCloskey**

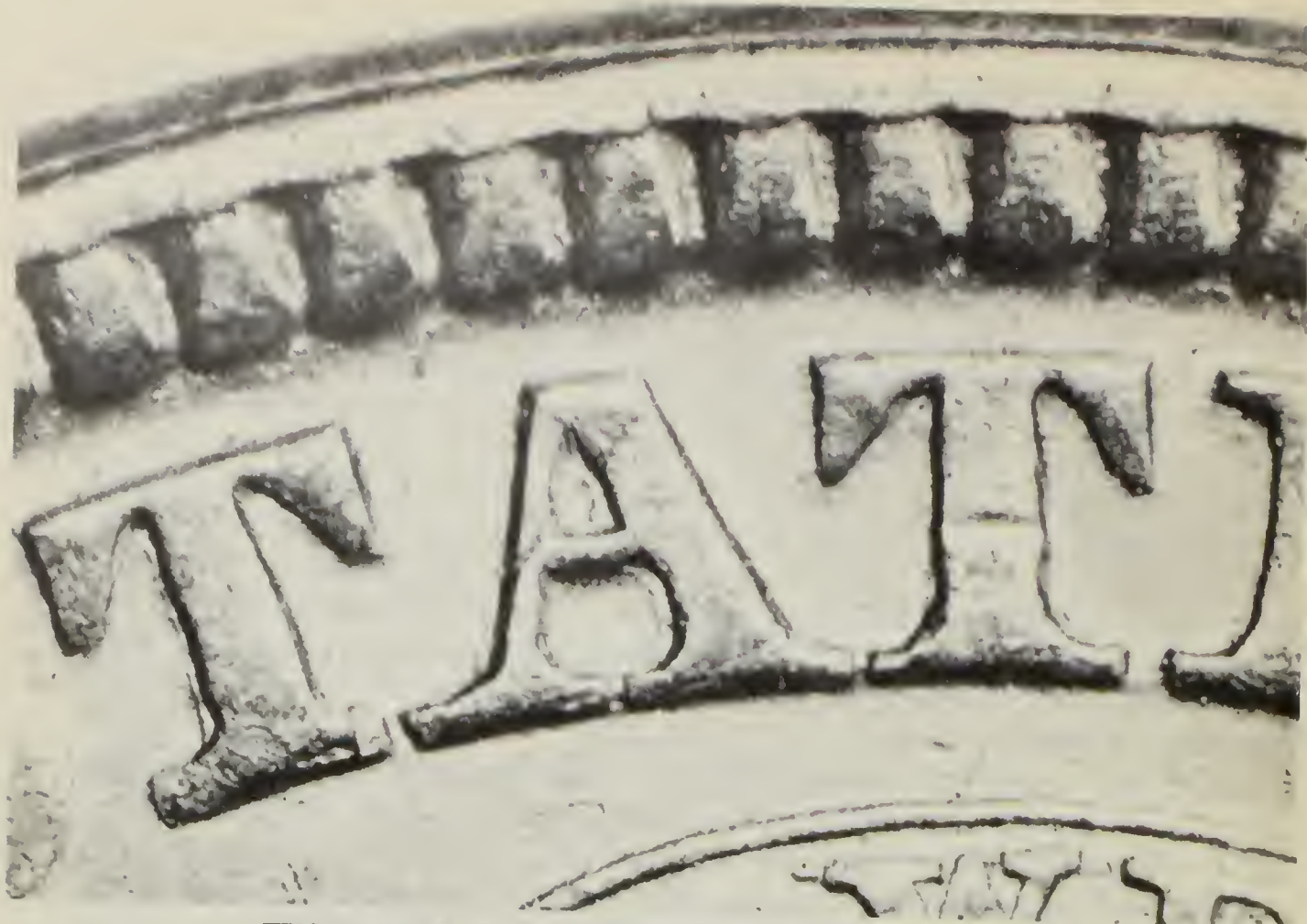
Numismatic discovery can be an interesting and very rewarding part of a collector's numismatic activities. Yet discoveries are not often made by mere chance. I have observed pieces with striking and unusual characteristics and have been unaware of it, even upon careful examination, because I did not know what to look for at the time. When the key to identification is finally solved you wonder how you could have missed it for so long. You observed it a hundred times but did not recognize the significance of what you saw. In this way, numismatic discovery is more often the result of diligent study, repeated observations, and persistence in the belief of an idea. Only then is one in the position to stumble into the key to a numismatic mystery. I wish to demonstrate this process by giving the background which led to the discovery of a new reverse hub for the Seated Liberty quarter.

I had been aware for some time that a new reverse hub was introduced into the dime series in 1876. This information had been documented in **Scott's Encyclopedia**, in **Coin World**, in a variety of auction catalogues, and more complete details were given in Issue #2 of the **Journal**. **Scott's Encyclopedia** and others have also documented the introduction of a new reverse hub for the half dollar series in 1876. Since this was the centennial year of our nation's birth, it had occurred to me that maybe the quarter reverse had also been modified to mark the occasion. Although I could find no references to indicate that a new quarter reverse was, in fact, made, I decided that the possibility seemed reasonable enough to warrant a study and investigation. At first I examined the reverse of several 1876 quarters without success. Finally, I decided that perhaps I was missing the point. Even if a new reverse was used at this time, I might be looking at pieces which were all of the same type. I then decided to carefully examine the reverse of an 1866 quarter and an 1891 quarter. In this way, if a change was made in the "with motto" reverse at any time during this 25-year period, it would be noticeable. Several careful examinations of the dies revealed nothing. Then one day I found it. Unmistakable evidence that a new reverse die was introduced into the quarter series at about the time of the centennial. The key was in the letter A in the word STATES. This key to identification is as follows:

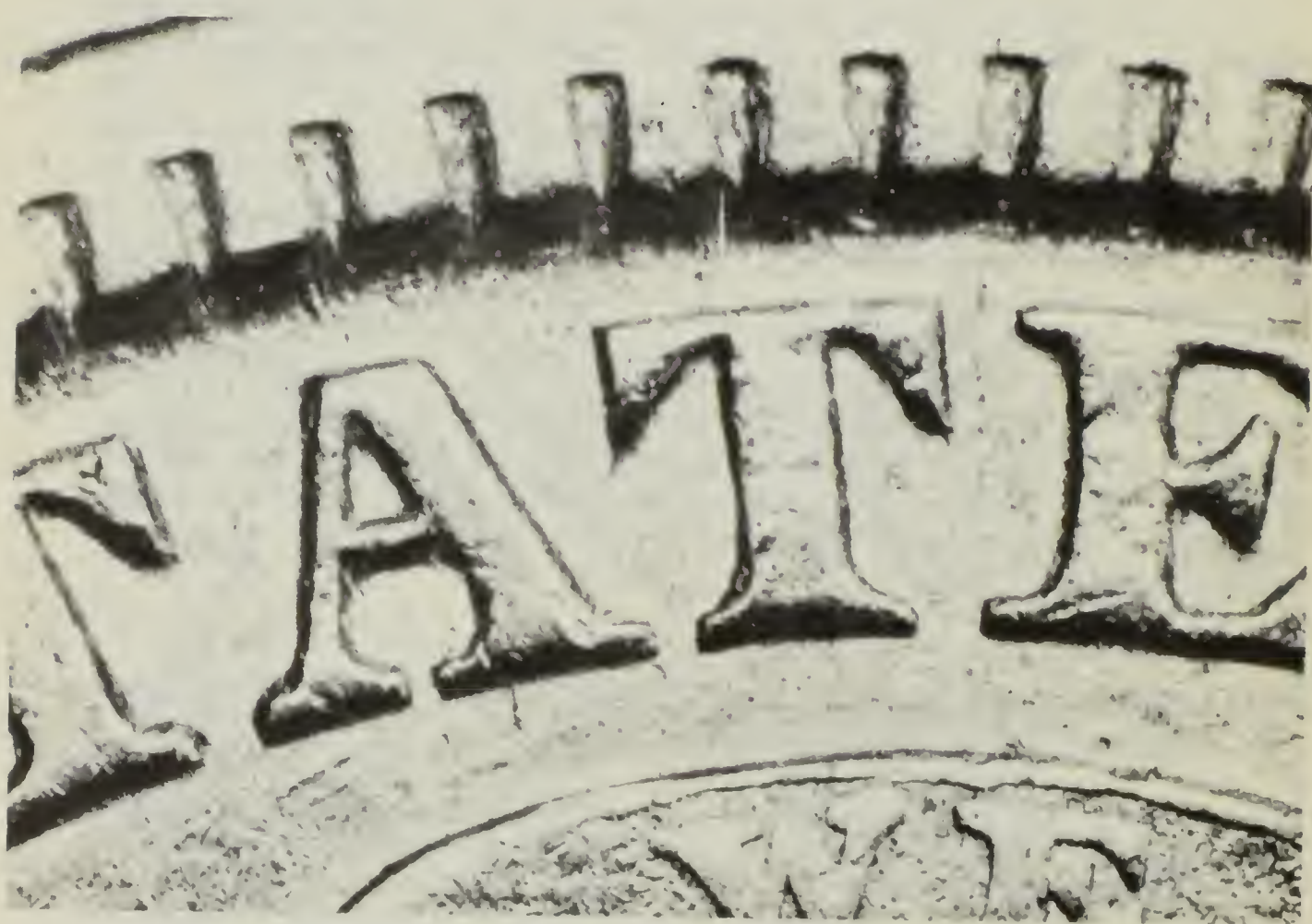
**Type I    Wide serifs to the letter A in STATES. The A almost touches the two T's on either side at the base.**

**Type II   Short serifs to the letter A in STATES. The A not close to the two T's.**

Having made this discovery, I began to examine many Seated quarters of this era at auctions and shows. I soon found that both types existed for



**TYPE I    WIDE SERIFS**



**TYPE II    SHORT SERIFS**

several dates and - even more surprisingly - I found that the Type II reverse showed up on pieces dated 1875, one year earlier than I had expected. A complete list of the varieties discovered to date is as follows:

| Date    | 1875 | 1875-S | 1875-CC | 1876 | 1876-S | 1876-CC |
|---------|------|--------|---------|------|--------|---------|
| Type I  | X    | X      |         | X    | X      | X       |
| Type II | X    | X      | X       | X    | X      | X       |

I would not consider any of the varieties listed in the table to be exceptionally rare, but I have found that the Type I varieties are the more difficult to obtain. To date no 1875-CC Type I has been found. I know of two different mint mark positions for the 1875-CC quarter, both with the Type II reverse hub. With a relatively small mintage it is possible that no Type I pieces exist for this date. I have also looked at many 1877 quarters but have not yet located any pieces of this year with the Type I reverse. It is certainly reasonable to expect that such pieces might exist, since the old reverse hub in the dime series was used through 1878. However, with a total mintage of over 24 million pieces at all three mints, it may take years to locate a particularly rare variety of the 1877 quarter.

The two pictures of the reverses of the 1876 quarters were taken by Tom Mulvaney at Paramount International Coin Corporation.

**AUTUMN IN THE SHENANDOAH**  
**LSCC #159**

**WANTED: HALF DIMES**

1839-0 in Ch. XF with multiple die fractures.

1844-0 in strict Fine dark, clean planchet.

1849-0 in strict Fine dark, clean planchet.

**WANTED: QUARTER**

1846 in Ch. XF, must be darkly toned.

I'm sure I join all the rest of you in wishing Kam Ahwash a speedy and full recovery from his recent operation.

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**KAM'S KORNER**  
by  
**Kamal M. Ahwash**  
**ANA-ANS-ASA-LSCC**

**A question and answer service on Liberty Seated coins. Please address all questions to: Kam's Korner, c/o Gobrecht Journal, 5718 King Arthur Dr., Kettering, Ohio 45429.**

**Q.** What is the consensus on 1846 half dimes? RDA.

**A.** Quite scarce, especially in Fine or better. I consider it rare in XF. I still know of only one uncirculated specimen.

**Q.** How do you rate, as to scarcity, the 1852-0, 1849-0 and 1842-0 Small Date quarters in grades from Fine to Extra Fine? RDA.

**A.** In grades from Fine to XF I would rate (1) the 1849-0 with approximately 10 known, (2) the 1842-0 Small Date with perhaps 12 known, and (3) the 1852-0 with about 20 known.

**Q.** Is the 1862 half dollar a scarce coin? If so, what value would you give a nice AU? CEC.

**A.** The 1862 half is indeed a scarce coin. A nice AU-55 coin with no problems would retail at \$300 to \$400.

**Q.** I have an 1853-0 with arrows half dime with what appears to be a Small O mintmark on the reverse. Is this a known variety? CEC.

**A.** It's hard to say whether it's a small O or not. I'd be very interested in seeing the piece. Only one size O mintmark is known to have been used. Neither Newlin, Neil, Valentine, Breen, nor I have ever reported any other than the Large O on an 1853-0 with or without arrows half dime. The one exception to this is what Valentine called a Medium O (V-2). Why, I don't know - they are all alike. Incidentally, the Large O is 1.2 mm high.

**Q.** Is anyone working on a Liberty Seated half dollar or dollar book? CEC.

**A.** Unfortunately no, not to my knowledge. I've been asked to give it a try, but I have many other things that I wish to accomplish first.



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- Q. Would you estimate the approximate number known of the 1870-CC half, 1842-0 Small Date half, 1842-0 Small Date quarter, 1863 nonproof dime and 1865 nonproof dime? DWB.
- A. In all grades I would estimate the 1870-CC half to be an R-6 (13 to 30 known), the 1842-0 Small Date half to be an R-5 (31 to 75 known) the 1842-0 Small Date quarter to be an R-5, the 1863 business strike dime to be an R-6 and the 1865 business strike dime to be an R-6.
- Q. How many complete sets of half dimes, dimes, quarters and halves do you know about or estimate there are? DWB.
- A. I personally know of about 6 sets of half dimes, 4 sets of dimes, and 4 sets of quarters. These sets do not include varieties but are date sets only. With the exception of one each, they grade only Fine to Good. I don't have any idea of the halves as I quit dealing in them several years ago. As a rough estimate of how many there are, I'd just double the above figures.
- Q. It is my feeling that some rules of thumb are sorely needed in grading the Stars obverse type half dime and dime, with particular emphasis on the weakly struck reverses. Is the ribbon bow a better grading variant than the interior leaf detail that Photograde focuses upon? The temptation, of course, is to grade by the obverse alone but it is obvious to me that this is a poor way to grade any coin. MV
- A. In a forthcoming book on grading to be published by the ANA, a grading standard for the Stars obverse will be clearly spelled out, at least I think so. I wrote this standard of grading for Liberty Seated coins from 1837 to 1891. The ribbon bow is important in grading the reverse but not as much so as the bow knot and the veins of the leaves. As for weak strikes, don't be taken in by that old quote, "It's just a weak strike, that's the way they all are." Maybe some portion of the coin is weakly struck or flat from over-polishing of the dies, but you can bet that most of the coins will have the details called for. Only on uncirculated specimens can the term "weak strike" be used as a broad statement. In circulated condition I'd grade both sides of the coin. Suppose that an 1841-0 dime has full stars, 4/5ths head etc. on the obverse, but the wreath is flat with no veins in the leaves and even the bow knot has no detail on the reverse. I couldn't call this specimen an XF but would have to call the reverse what it is, a fine or very fine, and price the coin accordingly. You CANNOT grade a coin by what "should" be there; only by what "is" there.

- Q. Is the 1858/Inverted Date half dime by any chance identical to the piece classified by Valentine as V-8, or was this variety unknown to him? MV.

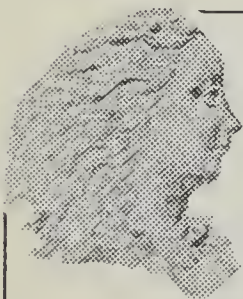


- A. The 1858 Inverted Date is in no way the V-8 described by Valentine. For the V-8, the pendant falls over the tip of the flag of the 5, the date is very low, the second 8 is lower than the other digits in the date, and the 5 is closed. For the inverted date, the pendant falls between the 5 and 8 in the date, the date is medium placed, about as high as V-2 or V-3, the second 8 is not much lower than the other digits in the date, and the 5 is open. According to Walter Breen, Jesse Patrick discovered this unlisted variety. I assume it was unknown to Valentine and Neil. Incidentally, there are several unlisted varieties of the 1858 half dime.
- Q. Do you know of any particular reason why no half dimes were struck in Carson City? MV.
- A. No, not really. As a guess, I would think probably because the Carson City mint didn't open until 1870, just 3 years before the half dime was phased out. At that time there was probably no great demand for silver five cent pieces because the nickel ones were plentiful. There were, in fact, very few half dimes made at the other western mint. For an eleven-year period, from 1863 to 1873, a total of only 2.38 million half dimes were minted in San Francisco. This is less than the 2.94 million struck at the Philadelphia mint in the year 1872 alone.

- Q.** What would you consider to be a reasonable mintage figure for the non-proof 1864 Philadelphia half dimes? I have seen estimates ranging from 1000 to 48000. MV.
- A.** I can't imagine where the 48000 figure came from. I'd be inclined to say the 1000 mintage figure is more apt to be correct, even though 14000 could be closer to the truth. Checking my notes, I find that prior to the 1950's only Proofs were known; at least they were all called proof. However, I'll let you be the judge by just comparing the mintage figures for dimes and half dimes for the years from 1863 to 1867 in the table below.

| YEAR                 | 1863  | 1864  | 1865  | 1866  | 1867 |
|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|
| Half Dime<br>Mintage | 18460 | ?     | 13500 | 10725 | 8625 |
| Dime<br>Mintage      | 14460 | 11470 | 10500 | 8725  | 6625 |
| Difference           | 4000  | ?     | 3000  | 2000  | 2000 |

Assuming the general pattern prevailed in 1864, one might expect a difference of, say, 3000 pieces between the half dime and dime figures. This would give a mintage figure of 14470 for the 1864 half dime. Just to add to the confusion, Newlin says in his thesis, "In 1864 the mint record shows that but 470 half dimes were struck at the Philadelphia mint. They are becoming difficult to obtain." This statement was made in the 1880's, no more than 20 years after they were minted.



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## **The 1849/184-0 Liberty Seated Dime**

**by  
Larry W. Ward**

The 1849-0 dime has several interesting obverse and reverse die varieties. The most interesting, of course, is the 1849 over 184, with the underdate low, slanting up to the right.

Over the past five years I have examined every 1849-0 dime that I have come across. Out of twenty specimens examined, five were with the double date. All five were combined with the small o reverse. A total of eight dimes had the small o reverse and twelve were of the large O variety.

Three obverse dies and three reverse dies were found as follows:

### **Obv. 1 - 1849/184 Doubled Date.**

Overdate centered vertically. The 1 begins under the center point of the shield. The right side of the vertical bar of the 4 is in line with the left side of the pendant. Date is 0.3 mm below base of rock.

### **Obv. 2 - 1849 High Date.**

Date closer to the base of the rock. The 1 is to the right of the center point of the shield. The vertical bar of the 4 is centered under the pendant. Date is 0.2 mm below base of rock.

### **Obv. 3 - 1849 Normal Date.**

Date placed minutely higher than Obv. 1 but otherwise positioned the same. Date 0.2 mm below base of rock.

### **Rev. A - Small o. Mintmark measures 0.8 mm high.**

### **Rev. B - Large O. Mintmark measures 1.3 mm high.**

### **Rev. C - Large O. Mintmark measures 1.3 mm high. Mintmark obliquely punched into the die. The top bolder with the bottom fading out.**

Die combinations observed are as follows:

1-A Five seen. One AU, two XF, one VF and one F.

2-A Three seen, the best an XF.

2-C Seven seen, the best a VF.

3-B Five seen, the best an XF.

The two close-up pictures of 1849-0 dimes were taken by Tom Mulvaney at Paramount International Coin Corporation.



OBV 1      1849/184



OBV 2      HIGH DATE

This is my second ad in the Gobrecht Journal. The first one was very successful. I need the following coins and will buy or trade to get them. HALF DIMES: 1867. DIMES: 1860-0, 1863, 1867. QUARTERS: 1872-CC 1873-CC, 1881, 1884, 1887. HALVES: 1846-0 TD., 1852, 1878-S, 1884. DOLLARS: 1851, 1852, 1858, 1871-CC, 1873-CC.

## COINS FOR SALE

### HALF DIMES

|                            |                        |                            |
|----------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1840-0 Drap. G + .....\$14 | 1853-0 NA G/VG....\$70 | 1868 XF (sl.ob.scr.)..\$65 |
| 1852-0 G + .....\$15       | 1860 XF + .....\$22    | 1870 UNC-60.....\$125      |

### DIMES

|                        |                          |                      |
|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1838 L.S. XF.....\$30  | 1847 VF.....\$39         | 1874 F + .....\$22   |
| 1838-0 VG + .....\$60  | 1865-S VF (Dark)....\$18 | 1886-S VG.....\$14   |
| 1840 Drap. AG/G...\$10 | 1870 Fine.....\$12       | 1890-S F/VF.....\$11 |
| 1842 VF.....\$11       | 1873 Open 3 F.....\$40   | 1891-0 XF.....\$17   |

### QUARTERS

|                           |                          |                         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1842-0 SmDt.Vg/F..\$180   | 1855-0 Abt Fine.....\$55 | 1885 Abt. Fine.....\$75 |
| 1842-0 SmDt. Abt F..\$245 | 1855-S VF/VG.....\$75    | 1890 AG/G.....\$25      |
| 1851-0 Fine.....\$150     | 1857 XF.....\$35         | 1890 G/VG.....\$37      |
| 1854 VF.....\$17          | 1860-S VG + .....\$120   | 1890 VF/XF.....\$85     |

### HALVES

|                         |                       |                         |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1839 NoDrap.F/VF..\$47  | 1862 VF.....\$65      | 1870-CC G.....\$185     |
| 1843 XF.....\$52        | 1863-S VF + .....\$23 | 1872-CC G.....\$25      |
| 1862 G/VG.....\$18      | 1866-S N/M VG....\$58 | 1873-CC N.A. G.....\$25 |
| 1862 AU(CLND).....\$185 | 1870 VF.....\$21      |                         |

### DOLLARS

|                      |                     |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1860-0 Fine.....\$67 | 1860-0 XF.....\$100 |
|----------------------|---------------------|

Dwight W. Berger  
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## Regional Meetings of LSCC

Two regional meetings of LSCC have been scheduled for the spring of 1977. A regional meeting will be held in conjunction with the Metropolitan New York Numismatic Convention held at the Barbizon Plaza Hotel in New York City. The meeting will be held at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 25, 1977. Information on the location of the meeting will be available at the registration desk at the convention. A second regional meeting will be held in conjunction with the Central States Numismatic Convention at the Red Carpet Exposition Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The meeting will be held at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 14, 1977. Information on the location of this meeting will be available at the B & B Coin Co. table at the convention. We regret that we cannot provide information on the location of these meetings but the information is simply not available at this time.

## ON THE COVER

The obverse of the 1873-CC No Arrows quarter is pictured on the cover of this issue of the **Journal**. The reverse of this same coin is shown below. While only two examples of this variety are known, others have been rumored to exist. If another piece should surface I would expect it to be struck from the same dies as shown here.

The reverse pictured below has an even greater significance than its use to strike the 1873-CC No Arrows variety. All of the early Carson City quarters from 1870-CC to 1873-CC that I have seen have had the same characteristic wide CC mint mark as shown in the picture. Because of the small mintage figures in these early years, it is possible that only one reverse die was used to strike the quarters over this four-year period.

This reverse mint mark is unusual in that the two Cs are far apart. The left C is 0.5 mm above the A and the right C is 0.7 mm above the R. The two Cs are 0.7 mm apart with the right C appearing higher in the field.

Two different reverses are known for the 1875-CC quarter, both different from the one used in the earlier years. Does anyone know of the existence of an 1875-CC quarter with the early reverse? Such pieces could exist. Surprisingly, the early reverse was used to strike some 1876-CC quarters. This 1876-CC variety is unusual but is probably the most common of the varieties in which the early CC reverse was used.

The Editor



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

During the period from 1965 to 1967 I purchased ten Proof 1867 dimes as an investment. Therefore, I found the article "The Rare 1867 Dimes" very interesting. It prompted me to check the ten I own to see if I was unknowingly slipped a proof-like business strike. Nine of the ten are nice Proofs. The dates are located where they should be with the recut date, the 1 and 7 doubled as

described in Issue #7. However, the tenth one does not match any of the three obverses shown. There is absolutely no recut date, no doubling. The date does not start to the left of the 7th stripe, but directly under it. If you have an opinion on this, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Andrew Mesaros  
LSCC #249

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Mr. Mesaros sent his coin to Kam Ahwash who verified it as a second variety of the 1867 Business Strike dime. A photo of the date of this variety is shown below for comparison with the other shots presented in Issue #7 of the Journal. In

particular, the date of the new variety is located further to the right of the date on the 1867 Proof die and further to the left of the date on the first 1867 Business Strike die pictured in Issue #7.

The Editor



SECOND VARIETY 1867  
BUSINESS STRIKE DIME

Walter Breen is wrong about the 1873-S No Arrows half when he says, "Several were shipped to Philadelphia in time for the next Assay Commission meeting." I have documentary proof that only one was sent. Also, only one 1873-S Standard Dollar was sent. Regarding the existence of the mutilated

1873-S Standard Dollar, I was close to it but never got to see it. The supposed owner is a great grandson of a high mint (SF) official, whose son was born early in 1873. But that's a long story; the supposed owner is an extreme eccentric.

Harry X Boosel

I enjoy the **Journal** very much and learn a good deal from it. The quality of the photographs is excellent, and the steady flow of serious research is a rarity in its own right. I hope that we will see an occasional article on the 20¢ and \$1 coins. Do you think the Club might eventually

be able to conduct a census of one sort or another, or would the difficulties of such a project be too overwhelming?

Please quote advertising rates for future reference.

Mark Verbeck  
L.S.C.C. #317

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

I have been very pleased by the interest that has been shown in the **Journal** and by the exchange of information that has resulted from the publication of articles on Liberty Seated coinage. Club membership has continued to grow, reaching a total of 212 paid for the current club year. We hope to keep the club dues at the present rate of \$5.00 per year by offsetting increased costs for postage and printing with increases in membership. I believe that this is a reasonable expectation because of an ever-growing interest in Seated coinage and an increased awareness of the club's activities and accomplishments. We likewise expect to maintain the current advertising rates of \$5.00 per quarter page, \$10.00 per half page and \$20.00 per page.

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In the last few issues of the **Journal** the Club officers have taken the position to use enlarged photos to illustrate the verbal descriptions given in the articles, especially those where specific varieties are discussed. Such pictures take a lot of space in the Journal, but we feel they help clarify the main points of many articles. Further, a picture can be used to check reference points not even mentioned in the article itself. A new membership list is currently being prepared. This list will include all new members who have joined since the ANA last August, updated addresses for members who have moved within the past year, and the list will eliminate those who have not paid their dues for this year.

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Since publication of the last issue of the **Journal**, the club has received \$5.00 donations from George Berry (#56), William Lake (#326), and Al Lyman, Sr. (#180). I want to thank these members for their generous support to the club. Such donations are greatly appreciated because they show support for the efforts made by the club officers in the publication of the **Journal**.

---

Your comments on any of the articles, ads or club policies are invited. This is your club and the Officers are dedicated to operating it on behalf of the members. Address any comments to:

**John McCloskey**  
Editor, Gobrecht Journal  
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**10:30 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. Monday through Saturday**